

November 24, 1958

*To make 3 sets
2 others*

Dr. K. Bhaskaran
Ram-Niwas, V.S. Ram Marg,
New Hyderabad
Lucknow, India

Dear Dr. Bhaskaran:

Thank you very much for your manuscript and for your kind letter of congratulations.

I am sorry that in the circumstances I have not had time to study your paper as closely as I would like. I do have one comment however for your consideration.

If I interpret your observations correctly you have never been able to obtain plaques on your indicator organism with a cell-free preparation of your "phage 129". This leads me to wonder whether this is actually a phage at all. As an alternative suggestion this may be a bacteriocin which can form plaques as described by Fredericq (Fredericq, P. (1950), C.R. Soc. Biol., Paris, 144, 730). In these cases the colicin appears to be closely associated with the bacterium but sufficient can be released from a single bacterium or a single bacterial colony to give rise to a well defined plaque. Another reason for suggesting this possibility is that Dr. Stocker and others have forwarded evidence for considerable fundamental similarities between colicinogenic factors and the F agent of *E. coli*. I know that you are already in communication with Dr. Stocker and I am sure that he is likely to bring up the same point.

Perhaps I have been too tardy for this observation to have any useful effect but I would argue strongly against using precisely the same terminology for the fertility agent in cholera as for the F+ factor in *E. coli*. It is one thing to stress the ultimate similarity between these factors but I am sure that you are going to generate some confusion in some reader's mind by giving your agent the same symbol.

I look forward to continuing to have reports of your interesting work; please take note of a change in my address effective January 20, 1959:
Department of Genetics, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/jp

I note your kind offer to send the strains you have been studying. For the time being I would not contemplate extending our present study but I am very happy to take note of your offer for future reference. Meanwhile I trust that you will take utmost precautions to preserve the valuable materials against the possibility of accidental loss. Professor Fredericq's address is. Institut de Bacteriologie, Université de Liege, 1, Rue de Bonnes Villas, Liege, Belgium.